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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/475,804	12/30/1999	WALTER ROSSI	856063.631	6887

500 7590 07/13/2004

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EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, DUC MINH	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2643	12

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/475,804	ROSSI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Duc Nguyen	2643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 16-20 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Guercio et al (5,796,815).

Consider claim 16. Guercio teaches a method of minimizing an overall voltage during a ringing function of a subscriber telephone circuit provided with a means battery voltage (power supply 214; col. 7, ln. 1-7), comprising applying a tip ringing to a tip terminal (either the input terminal of the communications circuit 210; col. 6, ln. 29-52); applying a ring ringing signal to a first terminal of a network (terminal 202 connecting to the telephone network); attenuating the ring ringing signal through a capacitive network (206, fig. 2; col. 4, ln. 39-64; col. 9, ln. 36 to col. 10, ln. 45); and applying the attenuated ring ringing signal to a ring terminal (either the input terminal of the communications circuit 210; col. 6, ln. 29-52).

Consider claim 17. Guercio inherently teaches coupling the attenuated ring-ringing signal through a resistive network to a negative battery voltage, since the ringing signal, which is applied to the ring and tip lines, is nominally a 20 Hz, 100 VRMS signal. This AC signal is superimposed on either the positive battery voltage +48 VDC, or the negative voltage -48 VDC.

Consider claim 18. Guercio further teaches attenuating the ringing signal through a capacitive network comprises modifying the ring-ringing signal through an inductive capacitive network (C 260, L 211 and R 212, fig. 2; col. 9, ln. 36-52).

Consider claim 19. Guercio teaches a method of minimizing an overall voltage during a ringing function of a subscriber telephone circuit provided with a means battery voltage (power supply 214; col. 7, ln. 1-7), comprising applying a tip ringing to a tip terminal (either the input terminal of the communications circuit 210; col. 6, ln. 29-52); applying a ring ringing signal to a first terminal of a network (terminal 202 connecting to the telephone network); attenuating the ring ringing signal through a capacitive network (206, fig. 2; col. 4, ln. 39-64; col. 9, ln. 36 to col. 10, ln. 45); and applying the attenuated ring ringing signal to a ring terminal (either the input terminal of the communications circuit 210; col. 6, ln. 29-52. It is noted that the hook-switch (106) and capacitor (206) can be installed in either wire of the telephone wires (204, col. 6, ln. 29-52). Typically, the voltage of the tip wire is approximately 0 volts, and the ring wire is at a -48 volt potential. In case the hook-switch (106) and the capacitor (206) is installed in the ring line, upon receiving the off-hook signal (i.e., reverse battery signaling), the voltage of the tip wire is approximately -48 volt potential, and the ring wire is at 0 volt potential. It is also noted that in the off-hook position, hook-switch (106) shorts out the capacitor (206).

Consider claim 20. Guercio inherently teaches coupling the attenuated ring-ringing signal through a resistive network to a negative battery voltage, since the ringing signal, which is applied to the ring and tip lines, is nominally a 20 Hz, 100 VRMS signal. This AC signal is superimposed on either the positive battery voltage +48 VDC, or the negative voltage -48 VDC.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-15 are allowed over the prior art of record.

4.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 5/7/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the Guercio reference, applicant states, "communication device 200 does not apply any kind of ring signal to ring terminal 202 at all, but instead merely detects a ring signal from ring terminal 202 and then attenuates the ring signal afterwards." Method claims 16 and 19 broadly recite applying a ring ringing signal to a first terminal of a network (e.g., the central office sent a ring ringing signal to connector 202); attenuating the ring ringing signal through a capacitive network (206); and applying the attenuated ring ringing signal to a ring terminal (e.g., a ring terminal of the communication circuit 210). Furthermore, detecting a ring signal is a process to discover or ascertain the existence, presence of the ring signal. In other words, the ring signal has to be applied to connector 202 in order to be detected.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-308-7527. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00AM-2:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on 703-305-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-6000.

Duc Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2643

7/6/04